

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1- 40 are pending in the present Application.

The Office has given a restriction requirement in the present action. In response, to the present Office action, Group 1, comprised of Claim 1, has been elected, without traverse.

Claims 2-40, which have not been elected in the present Office Action, have been withdrawn.

I. Restriction and Election under 35 U.S.C. 121

a. Restriction of Claims 1-40

According to the August 9, 2006 Office Action, Claims 1-40, of Groups I-IX, are allegedly distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Group I. Claim 1 drawn to a genetically modified, non-human mammal comprising an $\alpha 2/\delta 1$ gene comprising 290-like mutation, classified in class 800, subclass 8.

Group II. Claims 2-9, drawn to a genetically modified, non-human mammal wherein the modification results in a mutated $\alpha 2/\delta 2$ gene encoding polypeptide classified in class 800, subclass 8.

Group III. Claims 10, 11, 13-14, and 17-23 drawn to an isolated nucleic acid molecule and to a host cell comprising mutated $\alpha 2/\delta 2$ gene encoding polypeptide, classified in class 435, subclass 320.1 and subclass 325.

Group IV. Claim 12 drawn to a genetically modified, non-human mammal comprising nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 39, classified in class 800, subclass 8.

Group V. Claim 15-16 drawn to a non-human mammal that is the progeny of a first and as second mammal wherein the first mammal is a genetically modified with mutation in $\alpha 2/\delta 2$ gene and the second mammal is a genetically modified with mutation in $\alpha 2/\delta 1$ gene classified in class 800, subclass 8.

Group VI. Claims 24-25 drawn to a method of identifying a gene that demonstrates modified expression profile in a cell with mutated $\alpha 2/\delta 2$ gene, classified in class 435, subclass 375.

Group VII. Claims 26-27 drawn to a method of identifying a protein that demonstrates modified proteomic and/or post translational profile in a cell with mutated $\alpha 2/\delta 2$ gene, classified in class 435, subclass 7.

Group VIII. Claim 28-29 drawn to a method of producing a transgenic animal, classified in class 800, subclass 21.

Group IX. Claim 30-40 drawn to a method of determining the physiological effect of compounds involving binding to $\alpha 2/\delta 2$ polypeptide, classified in class 800, subclass 3.

b. Election of a Single Group from Groups I-IX, without Traverse.

In response to the restriction, Applicants elect Group I from Groups I - IX, without traverse.

Group I is comprised of Claim 1 drawn to a genetically modified, non-human mammal comprising an $\alpha 2/\delta 1$ gene comprising 290-like mutation, classified in class 800, subclass 8.

Applicants reserve the right to rejoin process claims should the product claim be found allowable.

c. Conclusion

If the Examiner believes a telephonic interview with Applicant's representative would aid in the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,


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